Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead

Before the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations March 10, 2011

Thank you very much, Sir. Chairman Culberson, Representative Bishop, and members of the committee. I am honored to appear before you in my fourth year as the Chief of Naval Operations, representing more than 600,000 Sailors and Navy civilians operating globally. I appreciate the opportunity to testify about our Navy's shore infrastructure, which enables our operations and is vital to the quality of life and quality of work of our Sailors, Navy civilians, and families.

Your firm support has permitted us to continue to provide the shore infrastructure the Navy needs for our Fleet operations, warfighting capabilities, family services, and shore energy improvements. It has enabled us to add bachelors quarters through our homeport ashore program, which remains on track to provide for our junior unaccompanied Sailors by 2016, and to complete our efforts by the end of this year to expand child care by 7,000 spaces in support of the family readiness we deem essential for our combat readiness.

Our fiscal year 2012 budget request leverages the opportunity presented by the Secretary of Defense's initiatives to reduce excess overhead and provide well-balanced shore infrastructure investments, including:

Twenty nine projects to increase warfighting and joint capabilities, enhance nuclear weapons security, support energy initiatives, and improve sailor quality of life; a slight increase over last year's request to sustain, restore, and modernize mission-critical facilities, which for us is airfields, hangars, piers, dry docks, for barracks recapitalization, and energy efficiency upgrades; sustained funding for fleet operations, family programs, child development and youth services, and bachelor housing through our base operating support program.

High operational demands, rising manpower costs, and an aging fleet, however, continue to cause us to assume risk in shore readiness, specifically the sustainment, restoration, and modernization of our shore infrastructure. The Continuing Resolution for 2011 compounds that risk by limiting our ability to issue contracts for new construction and facilities sustainment, and has forced us to limit several contracts for base operating support, slow civilian hiring, and delay awards for new construction. A year-long Continuing Resolution would negatively impact our ability to support our Sailors, our Navy civilians and families. I greatly appreciate your support in passing an appropriation to address these impacts.

Our military construction and quality of life programs demonstrate a commitment to our Sailors and Navy civilians. Thank you for your continued support of our Navy's shore readiness programs and for everything you do to support the men and women of the United States Navy; our enduring global force for good.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.